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# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2725

August 4, 1995

**AN ENERGY EFFICIENT WAY TO USE GRAIN** -- A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study confirms the energy efficiency of ethanol along with its positive role in reducing U.S. dependence on imported oil. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman says, "This new research shows that ethanol is a valuable economical tool that can help move this country away from our dependence on foreign oil." Glickman said we need a growing renewable energy industry now more than ever, since the U.S. is importing more than half of its oil. USDA's Economic Research Service report, "Estimating the Net Energy Balance of Corn Ethanol," documents that each gallon of domestically produced ethanol displaces seven gallons of imported oil. The report also states ethanol production is energy efficient because it yields nearly 25 percent more energy than is used in growing and harvesting corn and distilling it into ethanol. Since its introduction in the 1970's, U.S. ethanol production has grown to over one billion gallons each year. Last year, nearly half a billion bushels of corn were used to produce 1.2 billion gallons of ethanol. **Contact:** Roger Conway (202) 219-1941.

**CLEARING THINGS UP** -- A recently released USDA paper on Canadian Wheat Board pricing practices stirred up public controversy. But the Joint Commission on Grains wishes to clarify the status of that report. The paper was requested by U.S. members of the Joint Commission and was made available to Canadian Commissioners. The full Commission has not had the opportunity to determine the relevance of the specific pricing examples contained in the paper. Commissioners point out the analysis was prepared from a U.S. perspective, not from that of the Commission. The paper will be among many considered as the Commission makes its final recommendations due in September. **Contact:** Wayne Baggett (202) 720-4623.

**HIDE EXPORTS UP SHARPLY** -- For the second year in a row, U.S. exports of whole cattle hides are growing. Hide exports are up 25 percent compared with the same months of 1994 and exports for the year are forecast at \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$150 million. August Schumacher, administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, says two things contributing to the growth are stronger global demand for hides and the lower-valued U.S. dollar in Asian markets. Asia remains the most dynamic market for U.S. hides. Schumacher says this is coming at a good time for livestock producers, who are facing pressured prices from large U.S. meat supplies. **Contact:** Eric Van Chantfort (202) 720-9443.

**A PROPOSAL FOR GUARANTEED EXPORTS** -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to establish a program for U.S. exporters of agricultural products to receive guaranteed credits. According to USDA's General Sales Manager, Chris Goldthwait, the Supplier Credit Guarantee Program would extend Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) guarantees for short term credits extended to foreign buyers. Under the program, CCC will guarantee credit payment by the importer and the exporter may assign the guarantee to an eligible U.S. financial institution. **Contact:** Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.

**CLEAN GREEN PROJECT FUNDED --** USDA is helping a company make a corn and wheat blended plastic. Through the Department of Agriculture's Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center (AARC), USDA will provide a repayable investment of \$600,000 to Clean Green Polymers of Golden Valley, Minnesota. Part of Environmental Technologies USA, Inc., the company will blend 80 percent corn or wheat starch with polymers to make a starch-plastic composite that looks and performs like standard plastic. This is the second start-up company funded by AARC, which first provided \$1 million in funding to Phenix Biocomposites in 1993, which uses waste newspaper and soybeans to make a new finishing material that looks like granite and works like wood. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the investment, saying, "Not only are these companies adding value to agricultural commodities such as corn, wheat and soybeans, they are creating new economic opportunities and jobs for those living in or near rural communities." The AARC center makes venture capital available to firms to commercialize new industrial uses for agricultural and forestry materials and animal by-products and to develop new crops. **Contact:** Ron Buckhalt (202) 690-1624.

**1996 SUGAR QUOTAS --** The 1996 U.S. tariff rate quota (TRQ) for raw cane sugar has been set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The fiscal year TRQ for raw cane sugar is 1,117, 195 metric tons. A TRQ of 22,000 metric tons was also established for specialty sugar and sugar with a sucrose content of 99.5 degrees or more. The TRQ's become effective October 1 and are for sugar allowed to enter the U.S. customs territory at the low-duty rate. Certificates of quota eligibility are authorized to cover entry of sugar that is produced in the country having a TRQ allocation. They are not authorized to cover transshipped sugar or sugar produced in a third country and then exported into a country with a sugar TRQ. **Contact:** Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.

**QUARANTINE AMENDED --** Three newly developed varieties of rust-resistant barberry plants can now move from state to state without unnecessary restrictions. Quarantine regulations govern the movement of certain barberry plants to prevent the spread of black stem rust. Rust-resistant species may be moved if accompanied by a certificate. Black stem rust is one of the most destructive plant diseases of small grains known to exist in the United States. Caused by a fungus, the disease reduces the quality and yield of infected wheat, barley and rye crops. The fungus is able to live on alternate hosts, including barberry plants. Recent testing of amstelveen, lustre green and monry show they are resistant to black stem rust. To comment on whether these plants should be added to the list of rust-resistant varieties, send comments by August 24 to USDA's APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. **Contact:** Ed Curlett (301) 734-3256.

**FAX --** You can obtain our radio and TV programming information and the Broadcasters Letter through your facsimile machine by calling USDA's AgNewsFax. Use the telephone connected to your FAX machine to call (202) 690-3944. At voice prompts press 1, press 4, then to receive Broadcasters Letter, press 9200; radio newsline information, press 9250; TV contents billboard, press 9260; TV scripts, press 9270. After all your selections, then press #, press 3, and press the start button on your FAX machine.

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA # 1992** -- The art of Bonsai is the focus of this week's Agriculture USA. Brenda Curtis talks with a Bonsai expert about the techniques of gardening in the miniature. (Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).

**CONSUMER TIME # 1471** -- Report card on American eating habits. Bonsai gardening. Turkey cooking times are changing. Vitamin deficiency is linked to heart attacks. Problems for chili peppers. (Weekly cassette -- consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1984** -- Making fire ants sick. A report confirms ethanol is energy efficient. USDA seeks comments on EEP. Farm worker heat stress. Farm numbers grow slightly, probably due to changing definitions. Good news, bad news for the dairy industry. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Tuesday, August 8, weekly weather and crops. Thursday, August 10, crop production report for cotton and citrus; world agricultural supply and demand for cotton. Friday, August 11, crop production report; world agricultural supply and demand; cotton and wool outlook. Monday, August 14, feed outlook; oil crops outlook; rice outlook; wheat outlook; cattle and sheep outlook; world agricultural production; grain world markets and trade; oilseed world markets and trade. Tuesday, August 15, weekly weather and crops; farm labor report. Wednesday, August 16, milk production. Friday, August 18, cattle on feed. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.  
COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**FEATURE** -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman visits Farm Fest and talks about the 1995 Farm Bill. Lynn Wyvill reports.

**ACTUALITIES** -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman talks about the 1995 Farm Bill and crop insurance. USDA Meteorologist Bob Stefanski on the impact of heat on crops and livestock. USDA analyst Calvin Beale talks about farm numbers.

**UPCOMING** -- Lynn Wyvill reports on USDA research on organic mulch for vegetables.

**ATTENTION BROADCASTERS: There are some satellite changes in next week's television newsfeed. Please make a note of them.**

Thursday, August 10, 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. EDT. Galaxy 6, Transponder 1, Channel 1, Downlink Frequency 3720 MHZ, Audio 6.2 and 6.8. Monday, August 14, from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. EDT. Galaxy 6, Transponder 1, Channel 1, downlink frequency 3720 MHZ, Audio 6.2 and 6.8.

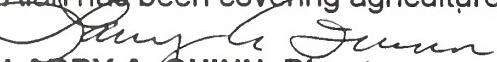
## OFF MIKE

**FARMFEST**...was the big event in Redwood Falls, MN this week. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman was among the featured speakers at the largest farm show in the state. He joined Minnesota's Agriculture Commissioner **Gene Hugeson**. Lynn Ketelsen (Linder Farm Network Willmar, MN) was among broadcasters covering festivities for an estimated 50,000 participants. Besides the traditional tractor pull, there was a "pedal pull" for the little farmers to enjoy. Lynn Wyvill and Patrick O'Leary of our TV team produced and edited a story and actualities from Farmfest for a special satellite newsfeed August 1.

**TOWN OF THE WEEK**...is a summer promotion that is keeping **Vicki Eilers** (WTAD, Quincy, IL) on the road. She is traveling to 11 towns to originate broadcasts through September. We caught her before she headed to her home county of Hancock this week. Just a few days ago, WTAD celebrated its 70th Anniversary -- as the fifth oldest radio station in the U.S. Farm broadcasting started there a year after the station began, but Vicki is only the fifth farm broadcaster to serve the station during those 69 years. The University of Illinois graduate is in her second year. Quite a heritage of farm broadcasting!

**BACK FROM SWITZERLAND**...and a review of their agriculture is **Kathy Patton** (WIBW, Topeka, KS). Kelly Lenz reports that Kathy is producing a series from her international travels. **Greg Akagi** was out covering county fairs this week. Kelly says Kansas wheat harvest is over, but yields and quality were down this year, creating a strong demand for quality seed wheat in the fall. Roger Conway of USDA was among Kelly's guests on their agricultural issues program this week to discuss a new ethanol study.

**HEAT**...is still a concern in many agricultural areas. **Alan Jarand** (RFD Illinois Network, Bloomington, IL) says some local farmers are being reminded of a long, hot dry spell in 1936. Alan has been covering agriculture there for 17 years.

  
**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**  
**Video, Teleconference and Radio Center**

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United States Department of Agriculture  
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